

Appl. No. 10/644,280
Amdt. dated Apr. 17, 2008
Reply to Off. Act. dated Mar. 21, 2008

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Claims 6, 7, 9, 12-18, 24, and 28-43 are pending in the present application. The Examiner rejected claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Di Meo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,823,056). Claims 6, 7, 9, 12-18, 24, 28-31, and 33-43 were indicated as being allowed. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and/or remarks provided herein.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

2. Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Di Meo. As explained in detail in Applicant's prior responses, Applicant strongly disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of Di Meo in view of the express recitations of Applicant's claims. For example, contrary to the Examiner's assertions, Di Meo fails to disclose or even remotely suggest any type of connector receiving member that is configured to receive and snugly engage the head of a carriage bolt such that rotation of the carriage bolt is prevented during threading of a nut onto the carriage bolt as expressly recited in Applicant's claim.

Nevertheless, in order to move prosecution forward and mitigate further costs of prosecution, but not for any reason related to patentability, Applicant has herein canceled claim 32, without prejudice to re-presenting the subject matter of such claim in a timely filed continuation application. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

Allowed Claims

3. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 6, 7, 9, 12-18, 24, 28-31, and 33-43 as previously presented. With the cancellation of claim 32, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

4. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone, facsimile or email if the Examiner believes that such a communication would advance the prosecution of the

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instant application. Please charge any necessary fees associated herewith, including extension of time fees (if applicable and not paid by separate check), to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-1111.

Respectfully submitted,

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